(ஆ) பேருந்து படிகளில் நின்று பயணம் செய்வதால் சென்னை மாநகரில் அதிகரித்து வரும் விபத்துக்கள் குறித்தும் அவற்றை தடுப்பதற்கான நடவடிக்கைகள் குறித்தும்.

THIRU G. R. EDMUND: Sir, under rule 41 of the Assembly Rules, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Transport to a matter of urgent public importance namely, the increasing incidence of acridents in Madras City due to foot-board travelling in buses and the need to adopt steps to prevent it.

THE HON. THIRU S. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, according to sertion 82 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 no person driving or incharge of a motor vehicle shall carry any person or permit any person to be carried on the running board or otherwise than within the body of the vehicles. Section 112 of the said Act provides that whoever contravenes any provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder shall if no other penalty is provided for the offence, punishable with fine which may extend to Rs. 100 or if having been previously convicted of any offence under the Act is again convicted of offence with fine which may extend to Rs. 300. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that there have been a few accidents due to the foot-board travel in Madras City. The Government have viewed this with great concern. They have decided that the prevailing practice of foot-board travel which is a menace to the public safety should be stopped and that only permitted number of passengers allowed into buses. Accordingly instructions have been issued to the Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner of Police to take appropriate action against the offenders. The Pallavan Transport Corporation has also been requested to instruct the bus crew to prevent foot-board travel in City buses.

With reference to the above instructions the city traffic police are checking such hazardous driving and a Press Note has also been issued appealing to the public not to travel on running boards. Propaganda on the evils of travelling in foot-boards is made through slides exhibited in local picture houses. Between 5th March 1974 and 14th March 1974, 210 persons were prosecuted for travelling on running boards on Vepery High Road. A few were admonished and the others were fined, fines ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 15. As a result of the above action, travel on running board has gone down considerably. The drive will, however, continue.